The South 40

Charles Farris farm has good herd success

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

One of the interesting stops on the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District Tour last Wednesday was the farm of Charles Farris. Over the past five years Charles has increased the average weight of his steers by 150 pounds. Last year the weight increase was 53 pounds per head. No grain was fed, but the calves had access to rye cover, which they creep grazed free-choice.

Three things were accomplished -- rye was used to provide a cover to hold soil in place -- provide a mulch for sod planting and food for the young animals.

Please note a 150 pound increase in weight at 60c/lb. is an increase in value of $90.

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Blue mold was found on two farms last week on farms adjacent to Appomattox County. The blue mold was on flue and fire-cured tobacco.

Reminder--if Ridomil was not used ppi, continue to apply a good fungicide spray weekly.

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Apple trees require good care during the first 2 years following transplanting.

Shoots that develop below the level of the first desired scaffold limbs should be removed now. The first scaffold limb should be at least 18 inches from the ground.

On newly headed trees, numerous shoots are or have developed. Some of the more vigorous varieties develop a cluster of vigorous shoots near the heading out. These shoots will compete for dominance and usually end up with narrow unacceptable crotch angles. Select the most vigorous shoot as the central leader and remove the two or three competing shoots now.

In non-bearing trees it's important to maintain a dominant central leader.

Now is the time to help set the limb angles on new trees when lateral shoots are 6-10 inches in length, hardwood toothpicks (round type) can be inserted between the shoot and the main trunk to develop a wide crotch angle. Check every couple of weeks to be sure toothpicks are still in place.

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Young peach trees also need summer pruning. Proper pruning now sets the proper stage for the development of a good tree.

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Dan Hamilton has planted a one-half acre vineyard this spring using a white and red variety.

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Don't overlook using the slow moving vehicle emblem on hay and silage wagons. Lights can also be helpful.

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Some growers are storing small grain--remember flowing grain can cover people and cause suffocation very quickly. Turn off auguers before moving, adjusting or unstopping to prevent hand and foot injuries. Always use a life line when entering grain bins.

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It is estimated that we must increase food production by 60 percent to meet the needs of the year 2000. Yet, the cultivation of less desirable land creates major conservation problems.

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Fly tags on cattle need to be in place. Flies bleed cattle of valuable pounds of blood.

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Consignment forms for the Lynchburg Feeder Cattle Sales will be mailed out August 1. If you have Holstein steers to market, call and ask for a consignment form for this breed.

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Fire-cured growers are reminded of the election fo a Director for the Marketing Association Tuesday, July 19, 7:30 P.M. at the District Extension Office Auditorium. Dr. Tim Jones, Tobacco Specialist, will discuss sucker control and Tom Hall will talk about booking the '83 crop.

Remove 'suckers' for successful leaf growth

"In order to grow a "Premium Bright" tobacco crop this year, growers need to top early and properly apply sucker control chemicals," according to J. A. Smith, Extension Agent.

Smith pointed out that the local effort to boost the quality of U.S. flue-cured tobacco and strengthen its position in domestic and world markets is part of a five-state campaign.

"Sucker growth robs leaves of nutrients and water. If not controlled, the suckers will reduce the size and body of the leaves thus lowering leaf quality," he said.

Smith emphasized that the most efficient sucker control program involves the proper use of several chemicals, beginning with an early contact (fatty alcohol) application when about 50 percent of the plants reach the button stage of flowering.

A second application of contact chemical 3 to 5 days after the first can improve control. Maleic Hydrazide (MH) or one of the new contact-local-systemic sucker control chemicals should be applied approximately one week following the second contact application."

Smith pointed out that MH residues continue to be a concern of buyers. He said that the use of products containing MH just prior to harvest must be avoided so that residues will be at the minimum. MH residues are related to the number of days between spraying and harvesting. The longer the time between MH application and harvest, the lower the MH residues.

According to Smith, labels on all MH-containing products specify a seven-day interval between chemical application and harvest.

ASCS Today

By TOM CONRAD

Farm Program Guards Against Soil Erosion - The 1983 acreage reduction, land diversion and payment-in-kind programs guard against soil erosion through the installation and maintenance of protective cover crops and conservation practices on the land taken out of production.

To qualify for program benefits, farmers are required to establish a vegetative cover or practice on conservation use acres. The approved cover and practices recommended for these acres are sufficient to protect the land from soil and water erosion. The protection is approved by the county ASC committee and also by the district convervationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

Conservation use acreage consists of diverted acreage for which payment is made,the unpaid acreage reduction acres and acres removed from production through the payment-in-kind program. Cover crops approved for these acres include annual, biennial or perennial grasses and legumes, volunteer stands other than weeds, small grains and crop residue from use of no-till or minimum-till practices. Other cover or plantings, particularly those benefiting wildlife, may be developed as long as the practice meets erosion control standards.

The ASCS official said farm operators are expected to use normal control measures for erosion, insects, weeds and rodents on conservation use acreage. If these measures are found inadquate, additional control measures will be required.

As much as 82 million acres of cropland may be withdrawn from production by the 1983 farm programs. In deciding on the cover and control measures for their conservation use acres, program participants are encouraged to consider the soil and water conservation benefits, protection of wildlife, and the long-term nutrient returns from a well-chosen cover crop.

We will be randomly checking farms enrolled in these programs to see that conservation use acreages meet the requirements. Any farms on which the acreages are not properly maintained or do not have adequate cover crops may be subject to penalties, loss of program benefits and/or payment of liquidated damages.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK SWEET
Extension Agent

Congratulations to Byron Patterson and Katrina Archer who were selected as the outstanding campers last week during our stay at Holiday Lake 4-H Camp. Byron and Katrina will each receive a partial scholarship to the 1984 4-H Camp. The outstanding camper award is based on participation in camp activities, cooperation, citizenship and enthusiasm.

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A special thanks to the adult volunteers and the teen leaders who made the week at Holiday Lake such a success. Adults assisting with camp this year included:Miss Pam White, Mrs. Jean Mills, Mrs. Jeanne Clabough, Mrs. Gladys Moon, Mr. David Hancock,Mr. Roy Moon, Miss Tamara Nash and Mr. Michael Hancock. Teen leaders working with the 4-H campers included: Laura Walton, Brett Marston, Rose Christian, Curtis Moore, Darrell Conner, April Talbot, Ada Hunter, Jeff Williams, Ernest Humbles, Martha Haley, Cheryl Wooten, Kathy Bryan, Craig Ranson, Jennifer Coleman and Jo Anna Layne.

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The 4-H group from Bailey County, Texas will arrive in Appomattox on Saturday evening of this week. Nineteen teenagers and four chaperones will be staying in Appomattox County until Saturday, July 23. Several special activities will be conducted for the Interstate Exchange visitors, including a trip to Richmond and the State Capitol. Appomattox 4-H'ers will travel to Texas during the summer of 1984.

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Several 4-H'ers have turned in completed projects during the last few weeks. Summer is an excellent time to finish projects and make plans for fair exhibits. Projects are judged each year during the month of October. Awards are given to the youngsters who do the most outstanding project work each year.

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The Appomattox Recreation Committee is sponsoring swimming classes at the Holiday Lake 4-H Camp pool. Details appeared in last week's **Times-Virginian.**

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Once again senior 4-H'ers are reminded of the July 29 deadline for 4-H achievement records. Special help is available from the Extension Office, as well as the necessary forms, instructions, etc. Achievement records may be completed by all 4-H'ers who turned 14 or older before January 1 of this year. Achievement records provide the one method for 4-H'ers to win trips to National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

Computer class set

A Computer Literacy class will be taught at Appomattox County High School from July 25 through August 5, 1983. All interested students in grades 5 through 12 are eligible.

Areas to be covered are: operation of the TRS-80, care of disketes, and an introduction of the BASIC language.

The class will meet daily from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The cost will be $25.00 per person.

All interested contact John Clark at ACHS, phone 352-8396 or 332-7146 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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